



Rural Development • Energy Programs Service • Renewable Energy American Program

USDA Funds Prairie View A & M for Energy Auditor Certification

USDA Rural Development funded a project to train students to become energy auditors. Grantees assist rural small businesses and agricultural producers by conducting and promoting energy audits and providing renewable energy development assistance. Applicants are facing difficult and costly options in obtaining energy certification necessary and essential in submitting a REAP application. The audits allows Rural Development to assess energy efficiency by gauging the volume of air escaping or entering an existing business or any facility utilizing energy to either heat or cool the air temperature. The REAP program helps increase American energy independence by increasing the private sector supply of renewable energy and decreasing the demand for energy through energy efficiency improvements, over time these investments can also help lower energy costs for small businesses and agricultural producers.



Electric motorized Pivot pump for agricultural producers

REAP applicants have struggled to find energy auditors to assess the energy rating to upgrade their buildings or machinery. Prairie View A&M applied and was awarded funds to establish an Audit Energy Certification program with funds from USDA Rural Development. Several sessions were held and the outcome has been great. The national average is less than 40% pass rate at exam time, Prairie View produced certified auditors that tested at 82% first time pass rate. In addition to classes and exams for the audit program, funds were allowed for the purchase of equipment necessary to complete the actual energy audits. Newly certified businesses may use this equipment to get started. Upon completion and certification, the auditors contact information are added to a lucrative list of vendors who are available to complete energy audits for residential, commercial, and industrial energy needs.

The proposed project is to improve energy efficiency, and therefore economic and environmental sustainability for agricultural producers and rural small-businesses throughout a 27 county South Texas StrilkeForce service.

Obligation Amount:	\$99,041 Grant and Prarie View A &M matched \$20,800
Date of Obligation:	March 25, 2015
Congressional District:	Michael McCaul District 10
Partners:	None
Demographics:	27 South Texas StrikeForce Counties
Impact:	Ultimately implement high-return energy efficiency improvements-positively impacting their long-term profitability and catalyzing rural economic growth